

United States Department of Agriculture



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October 1, 2012

SUBJECT: MGT – International Union of Soil Science, Universal Soil Classification Working  
Group Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, October 29 – November 1, 2012

TO: Robert Jones  
State Conservationist  
NRCS, Palmer, Alaska

File Code: 330-20

I want to inform you that the International Union of Soil Science, Universal Soil Classification Working Group, will be meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska during the week of October 29, 2012. The group that will be meeting will be a task group that will be focused on soil classification issues relating to "cold soil" environments. The meeting will be hosted by Dr. Chin Lu Ping at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. I am the Universal Working Group Chair and will be facilitating and contributing to the meeting as well.

This task group is made up of leading experts in cold soils from around the world and includes the following:

- Dr. Chin Lu Ping – The University of Alaska-Fairbanks
- Dr. Jim Bockheim – University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Dr. Cezary Kabala – Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences.
- Dr. Sergey Goryachkin – Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Science
- Dr. Dmitry Konushkov – Russian Academy of Science
- Dr. Charles Turnicai – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Dr. Erika Micheli – Szent Istvan University
- Dr. Megan Balks – The University of Waikato
- Dr. Phillip Owens – Purdue University
- Dr. Rannveig Anna Guicharnaud – Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Mark Clark – USDA-NRCS

Prior to the meeting, I was hopeful that you might have some time to visit with Mark Clark and me regarding some of the Soil Science Division initiatives for better understanding the soil environment in Alaska. I hope to be in Palmer on Monday morning of that week.

As always, if you or any of your staff are interested in this session, please do not hesitate to contact me.

  
JONATHAN W. HEMPEL ACTING  
Director  
National Soil Survey Center

cc:

Mark Clark, Regional Soil Survey Director, NRCS, Palmer, AK  
Chris Smith, Acting Director, Soil Science Division, NRCS, Washington, DC

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